IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 11, 16, 25, 30 and 31 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a storage device that stores scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene, data for an interval of the scene, and data for a significance level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and has no inclusion relationship with the other scenes so that the plurality of scenes do not construct a tree structure;

a display device that extracts, on the basis of an externally designated significance level, images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes having significance levels equal to or higher than the externally designated significance level from the storage device, and concurrently displays the extracted images chronologically;

a selection device that receives a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation; and

a playback device that plays back the scenes corresponding to the images of the representative frames selected by the selection device.

2. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device chronologically displays a specified number of the images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes concurrently.

3. (Previously presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device refers to the scene information in the storage device when a significance level is externally designated, and chronologically displays images of the representative frames of the scenes having significance levels equal to or higher than the externally designated significance level.

4. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

5. (Previously presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the significance level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

6. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device displays the scene played back by the playback device together with the images of the representative frames of the scenes, and displays data for discriminating representative frames corresponding to the scene being currently played back from the other representative frames.

7. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display device changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

8. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the display device changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed, synchronizing with the images being played back by the playback device.

9. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the display device changes a display condition and selects whether change of the display condition is synchronized with the images being played back by the playback device, based on an external instruction.

10. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the playback device plays back one of the scenes corresponding to one of the images of the representative frames of the scenes, which is externally designated among the images of the representative frames of the scenes displayed by the display device.

11. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a storage device that stores scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene, and data for a significance level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and has no inclusion relationship with the other scenes so that the plurality of scenes do not construct a tree structure;

a display device that extracts, on the basis of an externally designated significance level, images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes having significance levels greater than or equal to the externally designated significance level from the storage device, and concurrently displays the extracted images chronologically; and

a selection device that receives a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed representative frames on the basis of an external designation.

12. (Previously presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the display device refers to the scene information in the storage device when a significance level is externally designated, and chronologically displays images of the representative frames of the scenes having significance levels equal to or higher than the externally designated significance level.

13. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

14. (Previously presented) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the display device displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the significance level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

15. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the display device changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

16. (Currently amended) An image processing method comprising:

storing, in a storage device, scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene, data for an interval of the scene and data for a significance level of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and has no inclusion relationship with the other scenes so that the plurality of scenes do not construct a tree structure;

receiving an external designation of a significance level;

extracting, on the basis of external designation of the significance level, images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes having significance levels equal to or higher than the externally designated significance level and concurrently displaying the extracted images, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically;

receiving a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation; and

playing back the scenes corresponding to the images of the representative frames selected in the selecting step.

17. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the display step chronologically displays a specified number of the images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes concurrently.

18. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

19. (Previously presented) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the display step displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the significance level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

20. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the display step displays the scene played back in the playback step together with the images of the representative frames of the scenes, and displays data for discriminating representative frames corresponding to the scene being currently played back from the other representative frames.

21. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the display step changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

22. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 20, wherein the display step changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed, synchronizing with the images being played back in the playback step.

23. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 20, wherein the display step changes a display condition and selects whether changes of the display condition is synchronized with the images being played back in the playback step, based on an external instruction.

24. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 16, wherein the playback step plays back one of the scenes corresponding to one of the images of the representative frames of the scenes, which is externally designated among the images of the representative frames of the scenes displayed in the display step.

25. (Currently amended) An image processing method comprising:

storing, in a storage device, scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene and data for a significance level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and has no inclusion relationship with the other scenes so that the plurality of scenes do not construct a tree structure;

extracting, on the basis of an externally designated significance level, images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes having significance levels equal to or higher than the externally designated significance level from the storage device, and concurrently displaying the extracted images, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically; and

receiving a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation.

26. (Previously presented) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the display step refers to the scene information in the storage device when a significance level is externally designated, and chronologically displays images of the representative frames of the scenes having significance levels equal to or higher than the externally designated significance level.

27. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the images of the representative frames included reduced images.

28. (Previously presented) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the display step displays the images of the representative frames with data indicative of the significance level corresponding to the representative frames being added to the images of the representative frames.

29. (Original) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the display step changes a display condition in the images of the representative frames of the scenes that are chronologically displayed based on an external instruction.

30. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium that stores image processing program codes for playing back a moving picture, the computer readable storage medium storing:

a code for storing, in a storage device, scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene, data for an interval of the scene and data for a significance level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and has no inclusion relationship with the other scenes so that the plurality of scenes does not construct a tree structure;

a code for extracting, on the basis of an externally designated significance level, images of the representative frames of plurality of the scenes having significance levels equal to or higher than the externally designated significance level from the storage device, and concurrently displaying the extracted images, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically;

a code for receipt of a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation; and

a code for playing back the scenes corresponding to the images of the representative frames selected in the selecting step.

31. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium that stores image processing program codes for playing back a moving picture, the computer readable storage medium storing:

a code for storing, in a storage device, scene information including, at least, data for at least one representative frame extracted from a scene and data for a significance level of the scene of each of a plurality of scenes included in a moving picture to be played back, wherein each of the plurality of scenes is mutually disjoint and has no inclusion relationship with the other scenes so that the plurality of scenes do not construct a tree structure;

a code for extracting, on the basis of an externally designated significance level, images of the representative frames of the plurality of scenes having significance levels equal to or higher than the externally designated significance level, and concurrently displaying the extracted images, the concurrently-displayed images being displayed chronologically; and

a code for receipt of a selection of one of the concurrently-displayed images of the representative frames on the basis of an external designation.